



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for January 13, 2008**  
**Released on January 9, 2008**

**"Showing Love to Others"**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**"Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again" (Luke 6:35).**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Luke 6:27-36**

**27** But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

**28** Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

**29** And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

**30** Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

**31** And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

**32** For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

**33** And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

**34** And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

**35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

**36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that a believer is to respond to unkindness by loving, not retaliating.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. In the Bible, loving does not refer to liking, but rather to doing what is good for others.
2. Praying, sharing, helping, and befriending – all are ways to love.
3. We should be as loving and forgiving of others as God is loving and forgiving of us.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Helping to Remember, draw a large heart on red art paper for each child. Provide crayons, colored pencils and safety scissors (as appropriate for the age levels), construction paper and other art supplies for decorating. Make a copy of the word search for each student.

**LESSON BACKGROUND:**

This week's lesson deals with the proper response to opposition. We have learned that Jesus came to carry out his "Father's business" (Luke 2:49). Sometimes doing the Father's work arouses opposition and creates enemies along the way. However, we are not to treat our enemies the way that we would imagine that an enemy should be treated. The word of God instructs us to show love to others, even our enemies.

We show our love for God when we love those who do not deserve it. When we love those who have wronged us or those who are unlovely, this separates us from the world.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

#### **1. What is love?**

If asked to define love, most people would say something about "feelings" or "emotions". Love is indeed how you feel about someone or something. But in this week's lesson, Jesus commands us to love others, even our enemies. We just can't make ourselves feel a certain way because we are told to. Can we?

The text from Luke 6 makes it clear that Jesus was not talking about how we feel. Jesus was not talking about our attraction or affection for others. Jesus was talking about how we act toward others – what we do! The "love" that Jesus was speaking about is basically our decision to act in a certain way toward others. We are to choose to do what is good and beneficial for others, regardless of how we feel.

#### **2. To whom should we show love?**

When we think of showing love to others, the first images that come to mind would be those that we have some kind of affection or good feelings toward – parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, family, friends and neighbors. But it is natural for us to show love to these people because it is easy to be good to those who are good to us. How hard, after all, is it to love only those who love you? Not hard at all.

But Jesus, in this week's text, did not talk about loving those who we would normally love. Jesus taught his disciples that they should love their enemies. We are to love those who do not love us back! We are to love those who want bad things to happen to us. We are to love those unlovely people who do not deserve it. It is this type of love that separates Jesus' disciples from the rest of the world.

#### **3. How are we to show love to others?**

We show our love by the things that we do. The Bible says, "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Our deeds or actions demonstrate our love for others.

Jesus told his disciples about certain things they should do or not do. If someone hits you, don't hit them back (turn your other cheek). If someone says bad things to you, rather than saying bad things back, bless them instead. If your enemy needs to borrow something, let him borrow yours (give your cloak and coat). Do good even if the person is not likely to do good back to you. Praying, sharing, helping and being a friend are all ways to show love.

#### **4. Why are we to show love to others?**

Our motivation for showing this kind of love should not be for any reward or expected outcome. Jesus does say that our reward will be great (Luke 6:35), but we should do it simply because it is commanded that we do it. We should show this kind of exceptional love because it distinguishes us as followers of Christ.

As followers of a God whose nature is one of unconditional love, we too should show love because it is commanded and expected of us. We should show mercy to others because our Father is merciful (Luke 6:36). We should be as loving and forgiving of others as God is loving and forgiving of us.

#### **5. Explain how the story of the Good Samaritan is an example of showing love.**

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) to illustrate a point about loving and being a good neighbor to others. The story also demonstrates loving by deeds and actions.

In the story, robbers attack a man who is walking down a road. They beat him, take his money, and leave him on the side of the road. Three people come along and see the hurt man on the side of the road. Two of these people are the man's own people – one moved over to the other side of the road and went on by; the other went over and looked at the man but just kept going.

The third man who came by was from Samaria. He knew the injured man was not a Samaritan, but he knew that he needed help. So he stopped, bandaged the man's wounds, and took him to an inn and took care of him. When the Samaritan left, he even left money with the innkeeper so that the injured man could continue to be cared for.

In the time that Jesus lived, the Jewish people did not like the people who lived in Samaria. Some would not even travel into Samaria unless they had to. They basically were enemies, so why did the man from Samaria do all that he did? The hurt man was an enemy, but he needed help. The man from Samaria demonstrated love by doing what was necessary to care for the injured man.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

We often encounter people who are not very nice or kind to us. We may even know people who are mean and do mean things to us. The next time you are faced with a situation where someone is not very nice or mean, instead of reacting in a similar way, why not ask yourself, "What does this person need that I can do for him?"

Praying is a kind of loving. Sharing and helping are also a kind of loving. Does that boy or girl need you to pray for them? Can you share something with them or help them with a situation? Maybe they have not heard any kind words today. Say something kind. Everybody needs to be smiled at. Be friendly. Ask Jesus to show you ways you can show love.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):**

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson:

Let each child cut out one of the hearts drawn on the red art paper. On one side print, "Love your enemies," and on the other side "Be good to them." Decorate the hearts and use as a reminder to show love to others.

Using construction paper, have the children create some kind of token of love (heart, flower, shell, etc.) to give to someone they are having trouble getting along with. Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse. A word search for this week's lesson is included at the end of this summary with key words from the lesson.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again" (Luke 6:35).

Jesus was telling his disciples to love the people who do not like you. Love the people who want bad things to happen to you. How are we to do this? We do this by being good to them. If they want to borrow something, you should let them have it and not worry about getting it back. It is easy to be good to those who are good to you. But the Bible way to love – the Jesus way to love – is to be good even to the ones who are not good to you.

### **ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "**God Answers Prayer**" from **Luke 11:5-13**, and focuses on the God who is dependable and answers prayer.

### **Lesson Summarized By:**

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## WORD SEARCH

### Showing Love to Others

#### Luke 6:27-36

Find each of the following words.

MERCIFUL

BLESS

ENEMIES

LEND

OTHERS

REWARD

PRAY

CHILDREN

KIND

CHEEK

LOVE

GOOD

I E R E O S E N E Y A R P O E R I E L E S D D  
E C N L S R N S L E N E I Y O D E F I H D U R  
K U H E E L D H Y M E D I E E A R W L W L C D  
E E K R R D N C K R C I G L E N D C A H R E N  
R E F I T D G R D K E S O K S G I P F R H E F  
D R N G N O L E D E R S O O H R S N A O D M E  
F I Y O D D E I M M F D D L L R R D C D F N E  
H D C D E G E D H S S S S E I M E N E L M R R  
C G A L L N T R E C B L E S S E H N M N I G D  
E R D E N W C H T R D M N C M S T A R L D R D  
V E E K E E E I I S D C L S V S O I R I O D P  
O S C M E E R I A R O E L E N E E E L E I E L  
L T E D D E Y E R N E W W M E R C I F U L S G  
K L R H R E H I O H S N C D I D C E O C R O N  
E N E C R E D C G O A N E Y R N O R S U L L S  
R O E E O R D I T I H V I E L R E Y T E S C C

**Solution to Word Search (Showing Love to Others, Luke 6:27-36)**

Y A R P R  
N E  
E W  
K R G L E N D A  
I D O R  
N L O S D  
D I D R  
H S E I M E N E  
C B L E S S H  
E T  
V K O  
O E  
L E M E R C I F U L  
H  
C